

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

Ted Owens,

Plaintiff,

v.

Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social  
Security Administration,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 1:18-03013-TLW

**ORDER**

On March 23, 2020, Counsel for Plaintiff, filed a motion for attorney's fees pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412. ECF No. 28. On April 6, 2020, the parties filed a stipulation to attorney fees in the amount of six thousand, one hundred dollars (\$6,100.00) under EAJA. ECF No. 29.

Under the EAJA, a court shall award attorney's fees to a prevailing party in certain civil actions against the United States unless the court finds that the government's position was substantially justified or special circumstances make an award unjust. 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A). An EAJA attorney's fees award is payable to the litigant and, therefore, is subject to an offset to satisfy the litigant's pre-existing debt to the Government. *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 594 (2010).

After careful consideration of the record and the applicable legal authority, the Court concludes that the stipulation to the award of fees should be accepted. As noted, the parties have stipulated to attorney fees in the amount of six thousand, one hundred dollars (\$6,100), to be offset by the amount of Plaintiff's pre-existing federal debts. *See Astrue*, 560 U.S. at 594.

Having reviewed the file and being fully advised, the Court hereby **ORDERS** that the parties' stipulation for attorney's fees under the EAJA, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, ECF No. 29, is **ACCEPTED**, and the Commissioner is ordered to award Plaintiff attorney fees in the amount of \$6,100.00 for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action. In light of the stipulation, Plaintiff's motion, ECF No. 28, is deemed **MOOT**.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/Terry L. Wooten  
Senior United States District Judge

April 7, 2020  
Columbia, South Carolina